

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A portable terminal device for supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the device comprising:

a microphone for transducing sound into a first analog voice stream;

at least one converter for converting the first analog voice stream to produce digital voice packets;

a transmitter for transmitting, via the wireless packet network, the digital voice packets from the at least one converter;

a receiver for receiving digital voice packets from a base station serving a plurality of portable terminal devices in the wireless packet network;

the at least one converter for converting received digital voice packets to a second analog voice stream;

a transducer for transducing the second analog voice stream into sound;

a second receiver supporting a short range wireless communication link, the portable terminal device transmitting, via the wireless packet network, digital voice packets created using digitized voice information received by the second receiver;

wherein the portable terminal device evaluates a message wirelessly received from the base station and sends to the base station an indication of a data rate based on the evaluation; and

wherein the portable terminal device receives digital voice packets transmitted by the base station at selects-a data rate for transmitting digital voice packets to the portable terminal device, selected by the base station based upon the indication of a data rate.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol (IP).

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The device of claim 23 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using transmission control protocol (TCP) over Internet protocol (IP).

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a frequency hopping spread spectrum technique.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a direct sequence spread spectrum technique.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the at least one converter comprises:

an analog to digital converter for converting the first analog voice stream to digital voice data; and

a packetizer for assembling the digital voice data to produce digital voice packets.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the at least one converter comprises:

a depacketizer for extracting digital voice data from received digital voice packets; and

a digital to analog converter for converting the extracted digital voice data to produce the second analog voice stream.

Claim 30. (Currently amended) A circuit for supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the circuit comprising:

at least one converter for converting a first analog voice stream to produce digital voice packets;

a transmitter for transmitting, via the wireless packet network, the digital voice packets from the at least one converter;

a receiver for receiving digital voice packets from a base station serving a plurality of portable terminal devices in the wireless packet network;

a second receiver supporting a short range wireless communication link, wherein the portable terminal device transmits, via the wireless packet network, digital voice packets created using digitized voice information received by the second receiver;

the at least one converter for converting received digital voice packets to a second analog voice stream;

wherein the circuit evaluates a message wirelessly received from the base station and sends to the base station an indication of a data rate based on the evaluation; and

wherein the circuit receives digital voice packets transmitted by the base station at selects a data rate selected by the base station for transmitting digital voice packets, based upon the indication of a data rate.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using transmission control protocol (TCP) over Internet protocol (IP).

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further comprising:
a microphone for transducing sound into the first analog voice stream.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further comprising:
a transducer for converting the second analog voice stream into sound.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further comprising:
a keypad for receiving user input.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further comprising:
a display device to provide visual feedback to a user.

Claims 39-53. (Cancelled)

Claim 54. (Currently amended) A method of operating a portable terminal device for supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the method comprising:

evaluating a message wirelessly received from the wireless packet network;
sending an indication of a data rate based upon the evaluation;
receiving digital voice packets via the wireless packet network at a data rate;
initiating converting conversion of the received digital voice packets to a first analog voice stream;
transducing the first analog voice stream to produce sound;
enabling converting conversion of sound to a second analog voice stream;
converting the second analog voice stream to digital voice packets digitized voice information;
receiving digitized voice information using a short range wireless communication link;
creating digital voice packets from the digitized voice information;
sending the digital voice packets ~~converted from the second analog voice stream~~, via the wireless packet network; and
wherein the ~~portable terminal device receives sender of the received digital voice packets at a selects the data rate selected by a base station serving a plurality of portable terminal devices~~, based upon the indication of a data rate sent by the portable terminal device.

Claim 55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

Claim 56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a frequency hopping spread spectrum technique.

Claim 57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a direct sequence spread spectrum technique.

Claim 58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol.

Claim 59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using transmission control protocol (TCP) over Internet protocol (IP).

Claims 60-77. (Cancelled)

Claim 78. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections for operating a portable terminal device supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the code sections executable by a processor for causing the processor to perform the operations comprising:

evaluating a message wirelessly received from the wireless packet network;
sending an indication of a data rate based upon the evaluation;
receiving digital voice packets via the wireless packet network at a data rate;
initiating converting conversion of the received digital voice packets ~~to a first analog voice stream;~~
~~transducing the first analog voice stream to produce sound;~~
~~enabling converting conversion of sound to a second analog voice stream;~~

~~converting the second analog voice stream to digital voice packets~~ digitized voice information;

receiving digitized voice information using a short range wireless communication link;

creating digital voice packets from the digitized voice information;

sending the digital voice packets ~~converted from the second analog voice stream~~, via the wireless packet network; and

wherein the portable terminal device receives ~~sender of the received digital voice packets at a selects the data rate selected by a base station serving a plurality of portable terminal devices~~, based upon the indication of a data rate sent by the portable terminal device.

Claim 79. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 78 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

Claim 80. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 78 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a frequency hopping spread spectrum technique.

Claim 81. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 78 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a direct sequence spread spectrum technique.

Claim 82. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 78 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol.

Claim 83. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 82 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using transmission control protocol (TCP) over Internet protocol (IP).

Claim 84. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 78 wherein the evaluated message is received periodically via the wireless packet network.

Claim 85. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 84 wherein the message received periodically is a polling message.

Claim 86. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 78 wherein the evaluating evaluates reception of a message preamble.

Claim 87. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the evaluating evaluates reception of a message received periodically via the wireless packet network.

Claim 88. (Previously presented) The device of claim 87 wherein the message received periodically is a polling message.

Claim 89. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the evaluating evaluates reception of a message preamble.

Claim 90. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 30 wherein the evaluation evaluates reception of a message received periodically via the wireless packet network.

Claim 91. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 90 wherein the message received periodically is a polling message.

Claim 92. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 30 wherein the evaluation evaluates reception of a message preamble.

Claim 93. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the evaluation evaluates reception of a message received periodically via the wireless packet network.

Claim 94. (Previously presented) The method of claim 93 wherein the message received periodically is a polling message.

Claim 95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the evaluation evaluates reception of a message preamble.

Claim 96. (Currently amended) A system for use in a portable terminal device, the system comprising:

at least one processor that decodes digital signals received and encodes digital signals for transmission via a wireless packet network, the at least one processor operating to, at least:

evaluate a message received wirelessly from a base station serving a plurality of portable terminal devices of the wireless packet network to determine wireless communication conditions of a wireless channel;

send, to the base station via the wireless packet network, a message indicative of a data rate based upon the evaluation; and

receive packets of digital information from the base station via the wireless packet network at a data rate selected by the base station in response to the message indicative of a data rate rate; and

transmit, via the wireless packet network, digital voice packets created from digitized voice information received over a short range wireless link separate from the wireless packet network.

Claim 97. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein each received packet of digital information occupies the entire capacity of a radio frequency channel during delivery.

Claim 98. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein each packet of digital information received by the at least one processor occupies a portion of one of a sequence of fixed length time intervals.

Claim 99. (Previously presented) The system of claim 98 wherein the position of the portion within the fixed length time interval is determined by the base station separately for each of the sequence of fixed length time intervals.

Claim 100. (Previously presented) The system of claim 99 wherein each fixed length time interval is between approximately 10 milliseconds and approximately 20 milliseconds in length.

Claim 101. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein the data rate selected by the base station corresponds to the data rate indicated by the message indicative of a data rate sent by the at least one processor.

Claim 102. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein communication over the wireless packet network shares a single radio frequency channel.

Claim 103. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein the received message evaluated by the at least one processor is a periodic transmission of the base station.

Claim 104. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103 wherein the received message evaluated by the at least one processor is a polling message.

Claim 105. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein the communication conditions comprise one or both of a signal strength and/or acceptable reception of a message transmitted by the base station.

Claim 106. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein the digital information is digitized voice.

Claim 107. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein the at least one processor operates to, at least:

act as a master device in an exchange of digital information with a slave device, via a second wireless packet network having a shorter range than the wireless packet network.

Claim 108. (Previously presented) The system of claim 96 wherein the at least one processor operates to, at least:

receive image data from an image capture device; and
process the image data for transmission to the base station via the wireless packet network.

Claim 109. (Currently amended) A method of operating at least one processor in a portable terminal device, the method comprising:

evaluating a message received wirelessly from a base station serving a plurality of portable terminal devices of the wireless packet network to determine wireless communication conditions of a wireless channel;

sending, to the base station via the wireless packet network, a message indicative of a data rate based upon the evaluation; and

receiving packets of digital information from the base station via the wireless packet network at a data rate selected by the base station in response to the message indicative of a data rate; and

transmitting, via the wireless packet network, digital voice packets created from digitized voice information received over a short range wireless link separate from the wireless packet network.

Claim 110. (Previously presented) The method of claim 109 wherein each received packet of digital information occupies the entire capacity of a radio frequency channel during delivery.

Claim 111. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96 wherein each packet of digital information received by the at least one processor occupies a portion of one of a sequence of fixed length time intervals.

Claim 112. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111 wherein the position of the portion within the fixed length time interval is determined by the base station separately for each of the sequence of fixed length time intervals.

Claim 113 (Previously presented) The method of claim 112 wherein each fixed length time interval is between approximately 10 milliseconds and approximately 20 milliseconds in length.

Claim 114. (Previously presented) The method of claim 109 wherein the data rate selected by the base station corresponds to the data rate indicated by the message indicative of a data rate sent by the at least processor.

Claim 115. (Previously presented) The method of claim 109 wherein communication over the wireless packet network shares a single radio frequency channel.

Claim 116. (Previously presented) The method of claim 113 wherein the received message evaluated by the at least one processor is a periodic transmission of the base station.

Claim 117. (Previously presented) The method of claim 116 wherein the received message evaluated by the at least one processor is a polling message.

Claim 118. (Previously presented) The method of claim 109 wherein the communication conditions comprise one or both of a signal strength and/or acceptable reception of a message transmitted by the base station.

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Claim 119. (Previously presented) The method of claim 109 wherein the digital information is digitized voice.

Claim 120. (Previously presented) The method of claim 109 wherein the method comprises:

acting as a master device in an exchange of digital information with a slave device, via a second wireless packet network having a shorter range than the wireless packet network.

Claim 121. (Previously presented) The method of claim 109 wherein the method comprises:

receiving image data from an image capture device; and
processing the image data for transmission to the base station via the wireless packet network.

Claim 122. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the portable terminal device communicates with the base station in each of a series of regular time intervals using bandwidth of a shared channel allocated by the base station in response to requests received from the plurality of portable terminal devices for each time interval.

Claim 123. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein short range comprises distances up to approximately 100 feet.

Claim 124. (New) The circuit of claim 30 wherein the circuit communicates with the base station in each of a series of regular time intervals using bandwidth of a shared channel allocated by the base station in response to requests received from the plurality of portable terminal devices for each time interval.

Claim 125. (New) The circuit of claim 30 wherein short range comprises distances up to approximately 100 feet.

Claim 126. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the portable terminal device communicates with the base station in each of a series of regular time intervals using bandwidth of a shared channel allocated by the base station in response to requests received from the plurality of portable terminal devices for each time interval.

Claim 127. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein short range comprises distances up to approximately 100 feet.

Claim 128. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 78 wherein the portable terminal device communicates with the base station in each of a series of regular time intervals using bandwidth of a shared channel allocated by the base station in response to requests received from the plurality of portable terminal devices for each time interval.

Claim 129. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 78 wherein short range comprises distances up to approximately 100 feet.

Claim 130. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein the portable terminal device communicates with the base station in each of a series of regular time intervals using bandwidth of the shared channel allocated by the base station in response to requests received from the plurality of portable terminal devices for each time interval.

Claim 131. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein short range comprises distances up to approximately 100 feet.

Claim 132. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein the portable terminal device communicates with the base station in each of a series of regular time intervals using bandwidth of the shared channel allocated by the base station in response to requests received from the plurality of portable terminal devices for each time interval.

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Claim 133. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein short range comprises distances up to approximately 100 feet.